



The Catholic Parish of Bishop's Stortford



St Joseph and the English Martyrs, Bishop's Stortford
Holy Cross, at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham
Most Holy Redeemer, Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth
 Parish Priest: Fr Peter Harris • Assistant Priest: Fr Carlos Quito

Parish Office: Windhill Churches Centre, 1st Floor • 10am - 3pm Monday to Friday
 Postal Address: 3 Windhill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND
 Tel: 01279 654063 • Email: bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk • Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bishopsstortford>
 Live streaming from St Joseph's: www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford
 Diocese of Westminster Charity No. 233699

Sunday 9th September 2018 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9am Mass Andy Moloney & Joseph Stehl RIP
 11am Mass Private Intention
 12.30pm Baptism Harry Jon Channell
 Raphael Ascensao Ornelas Namora
 6pm Mass Anthia Plum RIP
Most Holy Redeemer (Sayesbury Road, Sawbridgeworth):
 9.00am Mass Bridie Lynch RIP

Holy Cross (at St Andrew's, Church Lane, Much Hadham):
 11.15am Mass The People of the Parish

Monday 10th September – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – Thanksgiving

Tuesday 11th September – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – Special Intention Sr Mary Leahy & Sisters of
 Auxiliatrice

Wednesday 12th September – The Most Holy Name of Mary

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
NO MASS

Thursday 13th September – St John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am Mass – People of the Parish
 10.30am – 3.30pm St Mary's School
 6pm – St Mary's School Dedication Mass

Friday 14th September – feria

St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 9.30am – Gavin Daniel & family Special Intention
 2pm – Requiem Mass- John Alexander McCombes RIP

Saturday 15th September – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

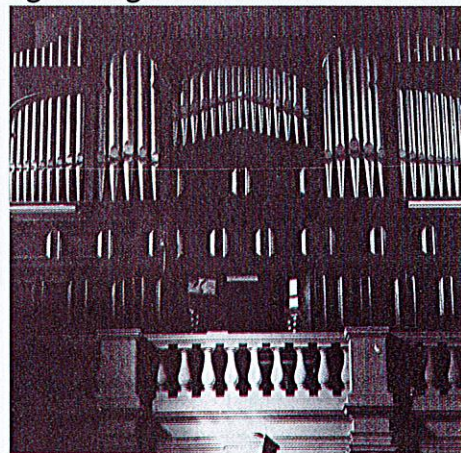
St Joseph and the English Martyrs:
 5pm- 5.45pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &
 Sacrament of Reconciliation
 6pm Mass - Anthia Plum RIP



Mass requests

Please fill in the envelope provided, the date & time you would like the Mass
 with a contact number/ E-mail address and hand in to the Sacristy, Parish
 Office or 3 Windhill with your donation.
 Thank you very much.

The original organ at the back of St. Joseph's!!



CHURCH DECORATION UPDATE – The Painting of the St Joseph's
 Sanctuary ceiling has now been completed and looks fabulous!
 Next week we hope to make a start on the vault and clerestory.
RCIA COME & SEE – If you are you interested in Adult Baptism,
 Reception to the Church or Adult Confirmation, please see Fr
 Carlos on Sat 8 Sept after 6pm Mass or Sun 9 Sept at 4.30pm in the
 WCC for more information

PARISH MAGAZINE – Copy welcome for the next edition of the
 Magazine, deadline Friday 21st September. Please email items for
 inclusion to astriddavies@hotmail.co.uk or to the Parish Office.

THE PURSUIT – What does it mean to find happiness in today's
 world? Come join us to explore what is true, good and beautiful in
 our lives today and establish a solid foundation for life's next step.
 The Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry are hosting a retreat
 day for those in school years 11-13 to see where God fits within
 these new phase of life. Sat 28th Sept | 10am-9pm | £20 (inc meals)
 HA5 3EP | contact: youth@rcdow.org.uk | www.dowym.com "
ENCOUNTER – meet next Fri. 21 Sept at Windhill Churches Centre.
'To be a pilgrim' Talk & discussion on pilgrimage, led by Robert
 Purcell. 10am coffee 10.30 meeting opens 12.30pm shared lunch -
 please bring food to share. 2pm day ends. All welcome for all or
 part of the day. Enquiries: B/S 652060/656482

POPE FRANCIS: A Man of His Word (12a) There will be a screening
 at the Rhodes Arts Complex on Monday 24th September at 2pm &
 7.30pm of the documentary film directed by Wim Wenders,
 focusing on Pope Francis, as he travels the world speaking to those
 in need and delivering a message of hope. Tickets are £8
 Concessions £6, Group booking discount for 10 or more tickets
 Running time | 1h 36m - Book online |
<https://rhodesartscomplex.ticketssolve.com/shows/873595505>
 Box Office | 01279 710200

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019

Applications are now closed

There will be a meeting on *Tuesday 11th September at 8pm in the WCC* for
 parents who have submitted an application for their Child to receive the
 Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion at St Joseph and the
 English Martyrs. There will be a separate meeting for those parents at Holy
 Cross and Most Holy Redeemer at a date to be advised.

NEW ADULT WELCOMERS INVITED TO JOIN – We would like to invite you to
 join our small but fabulous group of friendly Parishioners who welcome both
 Visitors and Regular parishioners at the weekend Masses at St Joseph's
 Church on a rota basis, usually helping out in pairs. The voluntary duty
 involves arriving at least 15 mins early, handing out Hymn books and Mass
 sheets, arranging the offertory/collection (if no one else already does this)
 and tidying the Church afterwards. We are currently looking into extending
 the Welcomer role, but only for those interested, to potentially include
 acting as a Fire marshal in the event of an emergency, should we ever have
 to evacuate the Church. This would involve directing Parishioners to the
 nearest exit and assisting those in need. Training would be given for this
 specific role. If interested in either role there is a sign-up sheet in the
 Sacristy. Thank you.

RESONATE WEEKEND RETREAT 26-28 OCTOBER – organised by Westminster
 Youth Ministry – Looking to take a step back from the busy modern life and
 explore the ways your faith can energise your day to day? Why not join us
 for an 18-35 young adults weekend retreat to do just that? Situated in the
 picturesque and tranquil grounds of Waxwell Farm, Pinner, the retreat will
 focus on taking the profound theology of our faith and exploring how it can
 be practically lived out in our 21st century world. A healthy mix of talks,
 discussion and reflection time will enable you to really break open these
 topics and give time for you to discern what this looks like on a personal
 level. The price for the retreat is £100 includes accommodation & food.
 Places are limited so don't miss this fantastic opportunity! For more info see
 our web site or the link below

<http://dowym.com/events/resonate-weekend-retreat/>

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE – There is a healing weekend for men and women
 who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death
 of a partner at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex from 5th to 7th
 October 2018. For more details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or
 Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrothernton@hotmail.co.uk

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR – Will take place on the
 2nd Tuesday of the month after Mass at St Joseph's (11th September)

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL is seeking new Foundation
 Governors to be appointed by the Diocese. Anyone interested should e-mail
governors@stjosephs207.herts.sch.uk for more information

PENNY COLLECTION – Please donate any spare change for Zambia

Say to all faint hearts, Courage! Do not be afraid – Isaiah 35:4

KERALA FLOODS: an SVP appeal

As you've probably seen in the media, terrible floods have
 been taking place in Kerala in southern India. Hundreds of
 people have been killed and many more are missing;
 countless homes have been washed away, and the monsoon
 season is set to continue until early September. Kerala is the
 most Christian state in India – it has more Churches than any
 other region. The leading Catholic volunteering charity, the
 St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), is very active there and they
 are doing great work helping the victims of the flood in local
 communities. However, they desperately need funds. Please
 contribute to the SVP's Kerala appeal.

**There will be a retiring collection this weekend for the
 appeal at all three churches.** Please remember our sisters
 and brothers in Kerala in your prayers.

To donate in other ways visit www.svp.org.uk, telephone
 020 7703 3030 or send cheques made out to 'SVP' (write
 'Kerala appeal' on the back) to SVP, Romero House, 55
 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB or please drop
 through the door of number 3 Windhill and we will
 coordinate.

RETRouvaille WEEKEND 14- 16 SEPTEMBER – Welwyn
 Garden City. During the weekend phase, a team of three
 couples and a priest give a series of presentations. You will
 be encouraged to put the past behind you and start re-
 discovering each other. The team presents a technique of
 communication and practical tools that enables you to take a
 good look at most areas of your relationship. They will share
 how they were able to benefit from these techniques
 themselves. After each presentation you will have a chance
 to reflect on it by yourself, and then discuss it in complete
 privacy with your spouse. The team do not provide marriage
 advice or counselling. Call in confidence call: 07887 296983,
 0797 3380443 <http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/nextprog.html>



Welcome back!! to our fabulous Refreshment Team
 Volunteers who generously give their time providing tea,
 coffee and friendship after Mass each week at St Josephs

THE FOOD BANK is in need of volunteers. Hours - 9-30am-
 11.3am or 11.30-13.00. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or
 Friday. If you can spare an hour or two contact Food Bank on
 074327 85976 or email bsfoodbank.coordinator@gmail.com

AU REVOIR to Fr Peter who takes his summer break from this
 weekend and welcome back to Fr Michael Lambert who joins
 us to celebrate Mass.

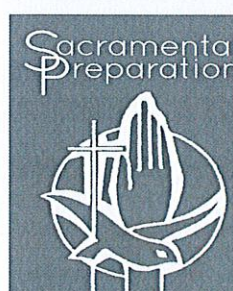


Parish Administrator – Debbie Jackson
 Parish Office: 01279 654063 (9am-3pm Mon - Fri)
 Parish Centre Bookings and All Enquiries:
bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk
 Safeguarding enquiries only
bishopsstortfordsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk



Collections 1/2 September 2018 Loose Coin & Envelopes

St Josephs and the English Martyrs:
 Collection: £ 1322.23 August S/ Order £7421.34
Holy Cross
 Collection: £ 38.61 August S/Order £955.00
Most Holy Redeemer:
 Collection: £156.94 August S/Order £655.33



Baptism: Forms and information are available
 from the Parish Office.
Marriage: enquiries call the Parish Office or email
 RCIA: Applications open
First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
 Applications open until 5/9/18
Confirmation: Applications closed for 2019

*Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life,
 our sweetness, and our hope! To you do we cry,
 poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send
 up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale
 of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your
 eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile,
 show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.*

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Say to all faint hearts,
"Courage! Do not be afraid.

"Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145

Response:

My soul, give praise to the Lord.
or
Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James.

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, "Come this way to the best seats"; then you tell the poor man, "Stand over there," or, "You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest." Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. "He has done all things well," they said "he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 3



Christ Healing Peter's Mother-in-law: mosaic in Cora Church, Istanbul.

Jesus is in Gentile territory, preaching and healing. This shows that his message is not confined to a Jewish territory or audience, but has a universal meaning.

Jesus' works of healing illustrate God's kingdom breaking into those situations where human life is imperilled or impaired. Mark the evangelist presents him as healing different kinds of people with different kinds of ailments, and here we have a very vivid presentation of the restoring to full health of someone who had no power of speech or hearing. Such healing is spoken of by the prophet Isaiah as a sign of the coming of the Lord. But the healing stories are symbolic of Jesus' ability to meet the deepest needs of the human person, and not just curing some physical sickness or condition out of compassion for the particular individual. They are what we might call "catechetical aids" rather than episodes from a biography of Jesus.

We often read in Mark's account that Jesus forbids the person who is healed, or those who witness what happened, to talk about the event. It may well be that it is possible for people to come to the correct conclusion that Jesus is the Son of God or the Messiah for the wrong reasons. The miracles are not the definitive evidence of Jesus' true identity; that is given on the cross, when there can be no further misunderstanding. The true confession of Jesus as the Son of God is given by the Gentile centurion when Jesus is dead.

Mark often ends a section with the question, "Who is this...?" When this occurs we might take the question as addressed to ourselves and wonder how we might answer; we are as much involved in the story as the characters in the narrative. ■

LEARN

The term *Decapolis* means "Ten Cities".

The Decapolis region is located mainly in southern Syria and is Gentile territory.

The theme running through Mark's Gospel of Jesus not allowing people to speak about his miracles or identity is known as the "Messianic Secret".

Ephphatha is a Hebrew or Aramaic term. Aramaic was the common language of the people of the region in Jesus' day.

REFLECT

Mark's presentation of Jesus' mission to the Gentiles reflects the experience of the evangelist's own community. It is also a model for the disciples who are called to take the Gospel message beyond the boundaries of their own comfort zone – in more than one sense. It is easy to settle for the comfortable and familiar (the maintenance model of the Church) and to forget that the Gospel message is for everyone, including those of different outlooks and cultures (the mission model).

There is a feeling in certain quarters that if the Church were to find a better way of communicating its message, then the problem would be solved. While there is some truth in that, very often people are not so much attracted by abstract reasoning so much as by the faith of individual Christians whom they encounter in the course of their daily life and business. Such people have something about them which make others wonder and want what they have. But this quality is not something which can be manufactured; it is something within the person and comes from a deep conviction about who Jesus is and what Jesus means to them. Very often it is not something which the individual can put into words, but it is still real and effective. That is why the Gospel urges us to keep asking the question: "Who is this...?" ■

SAY

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind.

DO

Prepare your answer to someone who asks you, "Why are you a Christian?" or, "Why do you go to church?" Be ready to give it.



Umm Qais is an ancient city of the Decapolis, in present-day northern Jordan. It is located in the extreme north-west of the country, where the borders of Jordan, Israel and Syria meet.